STD Facilities in all Exchanges of Bihar

1374. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the telephone exchanges in the State of Bihar have not been connected with STD facilitise;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to link all the telephone exchanges of the State with STD facilities in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out 659 telephone exchanges, 260 have been connected with STD facilities.

(c) It is proposed to link all the telephone exchanges with STD facility during 8th Plan period subject to availability of resources such as land, building and equipment.

Mail Delivery in large Towns and Metropolitan Cities

1375. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delivery of mail to the addressees or corporate offices and apartments in high rise buildings is posing serious problems for postmen in large towns and metropolitan cities in the country; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Postmen do experience difficulty in delivery of mail to addressees in the upper floors of high rise buildings.

(b) In May 1991, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 21(3) of the Indian Post Office Act, the Director General had issued an Order called 'Delivery of Mail Order, 1991' which requires all addressees in multi-storeyed buildings other than these residing in the ground floor to provide mail boxes at the ground floor for delivery of un-registered mail addressed to them.

Subsequently, in order to give reasonable time for implementation, the date of effect of the order was postponed to 1-1-1992.

In so far as Bombay city is concerned, in compliance with the direction given by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, a fresh decision is to be taken after consideration of all the matters relevant to the said Delivery of Mail Order.

Telephone Facilities in Maharashtra and Gujarat

1376. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the targets fixed by Government for providing telephone facilities in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan ;

(b) the percentage of targets achieved so far in these States;

(c) the ratio of population on the basis of which targets have been fixed for providing telephone connections in urban and rural areas ; and

(d) what is the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connectons in the major of these two States as on date and by when telephone connections are likely to be provided to all these persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Eighth Plan envisages addition of 16.70 lakh and 6.30 lakh new telephone connections in the state of Maharashtra (including MTNL Bombay) and Gujarat respectively during the plan pesiod.

(b) 13.5% and 16% respectively of the targets have been achieved so far in these states.

(c) The provision of telephone facility in urban and rural areas is made on the basis of registered demand and the objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan in this regard are :

(i) to provide telephones practically on demand in rural and tribal areas;

(ii) Waiting period for telephone connections not to exceed two years.

This is subject to availability of resources.

(d) Information for the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the major cities of these two States is placed at statement *(See* below). The 8th Five Year Plan envisages that the waiting period for a telephone connection does not exceed two years at the end of the Plan.

Statement

Waiting List of Major cities as on 31-10-93

Name of City			Number of persons on waiting list
Maharashtra (including MTNL Bombay)	1.	Nagpur	31534
	2.	Pune	53041
	3.	Amravati	3651
	4.	Aurangabad	8989
	5.	Kolhapur	2278
	6.	Nasik	14220
	7.	Solapur	7494
	8.	MTNL Bombay	215283
Gujarat	1.	Ahmedabad	51596
	2.	Rajkot	9420
	3.	Surat	46246
	4.	Baroda	38732

Quarters for the Staff Posts and Telecommunications

1377. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Wfll the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate number of quarters have been constructed for the employees of the department of Posts and Telecommunications at Indore, Bhopal, Raipur, Jabalpur and at Gwalior as on date;

(b) if not, the extent to which the number of existing staff quarters is less than the requirement; and

(c) by what time the shortage it likely to be made-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) *Department of Posts* : No norms have been laid down for satisfaction of demand for staff quarters in the Department of Posts. A total of 638 staff quarters are available in all the five stations as on 31-10-93. The satisfaction level in these stations is almost double that of the national average of satisfaction in the Department of Posts.

Department of Telecommunications:

(i) Yes, Sir. (in respect of Indore and Bhopal Stations).

(ii) No, Sir (in respect of Jabalpur, Gwalior and Raipur Stations).